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Approved by:	Chris Peoples	Date Issued:	March 2023

SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURES

Snowplow Operation and Maintenance

SOP 12B-24

Hazard Review		
Stationary Objects	Lifting	Traffic
Pinching/Crushing	Inclement Weather	Hooking/Unhooking
Sharp Objects	High Pressure Hydraulics	
Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (Based on job specific hazard review)		
Safety Vest	Safety Shoes	Gloves
Safety Glasses/Goggles		

1. Operators shall perform a pre-operational check of their equipment. Be familiar with operator’s manual. Report all needed repairs promptly. Do not use any equipment that is unsafe.
2. Supervisors shall verify that operators are capable and qualified on each type of equipment before allowing the equipment to be operated unsupervised.
3. Inspect plows and components prior to use as follows and repair or replace any items found to be deficient:
 - a. Check plow, plow frame, blades and shear flange for cracks, broken welds or loose bolts.
 - b. Check shear flange and pins for proper bolt grade, size, tightness and condition.
 - c. Check safety chains and blade for wear and condition.
 - d. Check for leaky or damaged hydraulic lines, fittings or cylinders. Never use your hands to check for leaks as the hydraulic fluid is under pressure and may be injected into your skin.
 - e. Check lube (grease) points and lube (grease) as needed.
 - f. Check all controls to ensure smooth and correct operation.
4. Be aware of pinch points when installing or removing plows. Keep your hands away. Do not lift with your back. Get help and use lifting equipment as needed. Utilize jacks to make adjustments. Be aware of potential for pinched hydraulic hoses.
5. Always use safety chains or protective blocking when changing blades or performing other work on plows; never trust the hydraulic system! Jacks stands shall be utilized.
6. Adjust your plowing speed to the conditions, i.e. traffic volumes, pedestrians, highway conditions, material to be plowed, terrain and visibility.
7. While plowing, watch for bridge joints, water meters, manholes, railroad tracks, etc.
8. Check the condition of the plow periodically during use using the guidelines provided in number 3a, 3c and 3d above.
9. The use of flags on ends of plow is recommended for visual contact by driver.
10. When possible, plow operators should inspect plowing route and note or mark hazards.
11. For long distance travel (outside normal work area), the snowplow should be chained in the up position to relieve stress on the cylinder and lifting mechanism.
12. Technicians shall check tools for visible defects prior to making repairs.

Related SOP's	
General SOPsChapter 10	Truck, Crew Cab and Flatbed.....12A-29
Truck, Dump 12A-30	Spreader, In-body Salt12B-26
Spreader, Material Tow Type 12B-27	Spreader, Tailgate12B-28